in favour of Lamarckism, little or no mention is made of the truly overwhelming mass of evidence against it, nor is the reader given any opportunity of considering the very weighty arguments which have been urged against it.

Throughout, the author uses the somewhat ambiguous and ill-defined term 'qualities,' and on p. 37 says that the nucleus of the male germ-cell is "the sole channel through which the qualities of the father were transmitted to the child." Now surely this is a most misleading statement, for what were transmitted were certain substances making up the paternal germ-plasm. It would be nearer the truth to say that parent and child resemble each other in so far as both are derived from germ-cells to the nuclei of which have been transmitted similar substances or factors, and in so far as parent and child develop under the same conditions.

When discussing the effect of selection Prof. MacBride has been misled into making a statement about Darwin which is quite unjustified. On p. 138 he says that the results of certain experiments "lend no support whatever to the cardinal postulate of Darwin and Wallace that natural selection alone could effect evolution." It is really deplorable that the author should put forth such a travesty of the Darwinian position. Again and again Darwin, in his wisdom foreseeing no doubt what foolish statements might be made on the subject, protests that selection can produce no effect, without variation: "Some have even imagined that natural selection induces variability, whereas it implies only the preservation of such variations as arise and are beneficial" (Origin of Species, 6th edit., p. 58); and further on "Unless such variations occur, natural selection can do nothing." (Ibid. p. 59).

E. S. GOODRICH.

**Reinheimer, H.** *Evolution at the Crossways.* The C. W. Daniel Company. London. 1924. Pp. 188. Price 6s. net.

THE title of this book is more arresting than explanatory, but apparently refers to the condition of the reader who has previously made himself acquainted with the literature of evolution. With most of this literature and the prevailing views on the subject the author is in profound disagreement, and his dissent is expressed in terms which are, to say the least, outspoken. The scope of the work will, perhaps, be best set forth in his own words by one or two quotations from the Introduction

"I have travelled far from Darwin. In the place of his competitive theory of evolution I have framed an opposite, i.e., co-operative one; instead of a "naturalistic," i.e., morally neutral one, a socio-physiological and moral one." "The world of life forms a kind of society; and just as in human society, the progress and the success and happiness of the individuals depend on the character of their mutual relations and behaviour, i.e., their conduct . . . . and there is, therefore, a biological morality throughout, which does not ,of course, involve conscious morality or really ethical praise or blame of the individuals concerned."

If the reader finds this statement a little difficult to assimilate, he must proceed to the exposition with which the rest of the book is

occupied. But it may be doubted whether he will find it very convincing or very easy to follow; for the argument is conducted somewhat unmethodically, the style is voluble and diffuse, and the numerous quotations from the writings of Emerson, Kropotkin, Samuel Butler and other men of letters are far from elucidating the matter. In any case, this new and revolutionary theory does not appear to have any bearing upon eugenics, so that any discussion of its merits would be inappropriate to these pages.

R. AUSTIN FREEMAN.

**Schiller, F. C. S., D.Sc.** (Fellow and Senior Tutor of Corpus Christi College, Oxford). *Problems of Belief.* Hodder and Stoughton. London. Pp. 192. Price ?

THIS is a delicious book, which we heartily commend to all our readers. After perusing it we feel inclined to say to the author "Almost thou persuadest me to be a—pragmatist." Eugenists are chiefly interested in it, on account of the brave defence which Dr. Schiller makes of the scientific attitude towards truth. He justifies the tentative experimental approach towards the solution of each and every question, including those which it has been the custom to regard as truth certified by *a priori* considerations. One enjoys his slaps at such venerable figures in philosophy as even the great Kant, whose "categorical imperative" he derides as being universally applicable only because it means nothing in particular. One cannot however rid oneself of the uncomfortable feeling that the despised philosophers whose "reflexion is only rumination" might possibly have something to say on the other side, that even the most convinced pragmatist must start on his search with certain implicit assumptions, and that it is precisely these assumptions that are the subject matter of philosophy—but no doubt the philosophers can look after themselves.

E. W. MACBRIDE.

**Seimens, Dr. Hermann Werner. Privatdozent for Dermatology in the University of Munich.** *Einführung in die allgemeine und spezielle Vererbungspathologie des Menschen.* **2. Auflage. Julius Springer, Berlin, 1923. Pp. 286. Price $2.90, bound $3.25.**

IN recent years a number of works dealing with human heredity have appeared, particularly in Germany since the war. The present book, which was written for students and medical men, was first published in 1920 and has now reached a second edition which is much increased in size. It confines itself entirely to the inheritance of abnormalities, and in this field is probably the most extensive which has been published.

The author emphasizes the necessity of introducing conceptions of heredity more widely into the study of pathological conditions. He introduces the term *idiotype* as the sum of all the hereditary qualities (Anlagen) of an individual, and *paratype* for everything produced by external conditions, and is thus enabled to speak of idiotypic and paratypic causes of the characters which appear in an organism. Whether these and other additions to biological terminology as a